

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 10390 120459Z

12

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-10 PRS-01 DRC-01

/064 W

----- 067725

R 120409Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7911

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10390

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MARCOS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

1. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY CONTROLLED MANILA PRESS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS SPENT A QUIET BIRTHDAY AT HIS DESK, THE FACT IS THAT HIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WAS A TWO-DAY BLAST CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED BY HIS WIFE IMELDA. FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT, THE TOP MILITARY BRASS, AND THE CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, ALL WORK CAME TO A HALT WHILE WE WERE PARADED THROUGH THE CEREMONIES. THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR THE LATE CARDINAL SANTOS, WHICH FELL IN THE MIDDLE OF THESE EVENTS, WERE VERY LARGELY ECLIPSED AS FAR AS PHILIPPINE OFFICIALDOM WAS CONCERNED.

2. CEREMONIES BEGAN SEPT. 10 AT 8:00 A.M. WITH MILITARY REVIEW, FLY-BY, AND RAMBLING SPEECH BY PRESIDENT AT CAMP AGUINALDO, FOLLOWED BY DEDICATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED FACILITIES THERE. THIS CONSUMED ENTIRE MORNING.

3. CEREMONIES RESUMED 7:00 P.M. THAT SAME EVENING WITH MOONLIGHT PARADE, RECEPTION, SERENADE, DINNER, FLOOR SHOW, AND CONCERT. THESE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 10390 120459Z

FESTIVITIES ENDED AT 2:00 A.M. THEY THEN RESUMED AT 8:30 A.M. FOR

CHIEFS OF MISSION, WHO ATTENDED MASS, INSPECTED EXHIBITION ON NEW SOCIETY AND ULTIMATELY TOASTED PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AT 12:00 NOON.

4. THAT AFTERNOON, AN EXTRAVAGANZA TOOK PLACE AT LUNETTA WITH TOP ENTERTAINERS, NEW MANILA AIRPORT BUILDING WAS DEDICATED, AND SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS WERE OPENED IN PRESIDENTIAL HONOR.

5. IN GENERAL, EVERY ASPECT OF THE OCCASION WAS TOO MUCH, TOO LONG, AND IN QUESTIONABLE TASTE. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL GENERAL OFFICERS IN THE ARMED SERVICES (CONSTABULARY COMMANDER RAMOS EXCEPTED) WERE REQUIRED, AS PART OF THE PALACE FLOOR SHOW, TO PARADE IN GARISH FEMALE ATTIRE. THIS CAUSED MUCH GRUMBLING AMONG MILITARY HIERARCHY, AND WIVES OF SERVICE CHIEFS STOOD CONSPICUOUSLY IN A GRIM, UN-SMILING PHALANX THROUGHOUT THE HILARITY.

6. COMMENT: THIS WHOLE AFFAIR WAS A SACCHARINE SUFFUSION OF SYCOPHANCY WHICH REMINDED ME UNHAPPILY OF THE HEYDAYS OF SUKARNO AND SIHANOUK. ALTHOUGH IMELDA WAS RESPONSIBLE, THE PRESIDENT SEEMED TO ENJOY IT AND APPEARED UNAWARE OF THE NEGATIVE VIBRATIONS AMONG HIS COURTIER, ESPECIALLY THE SENIOR MILITARY, UPON WHOM SO MUCH OF HIS FUTURE PROGRAMS WILL DEPEND. ONLY THE MARCOS CHILDREN, TO THEIR CREDIT, APPEARED EMBARRASSED BY THE DISPLAY. TO PROVIDE THE FULL TENOR OF THE EVENT, I AM SENDING BY SEPARATE AIRGRAM THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROGRAM NOTES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE CONCERTO COMMISSIONED FOR THE OCCASION.

SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANILA10390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SULLIVAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730940/aaaabdje.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT MARCOS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
TAGS: PFOR, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005